Montana Department of
Environmental Quality

Watershed Management Update

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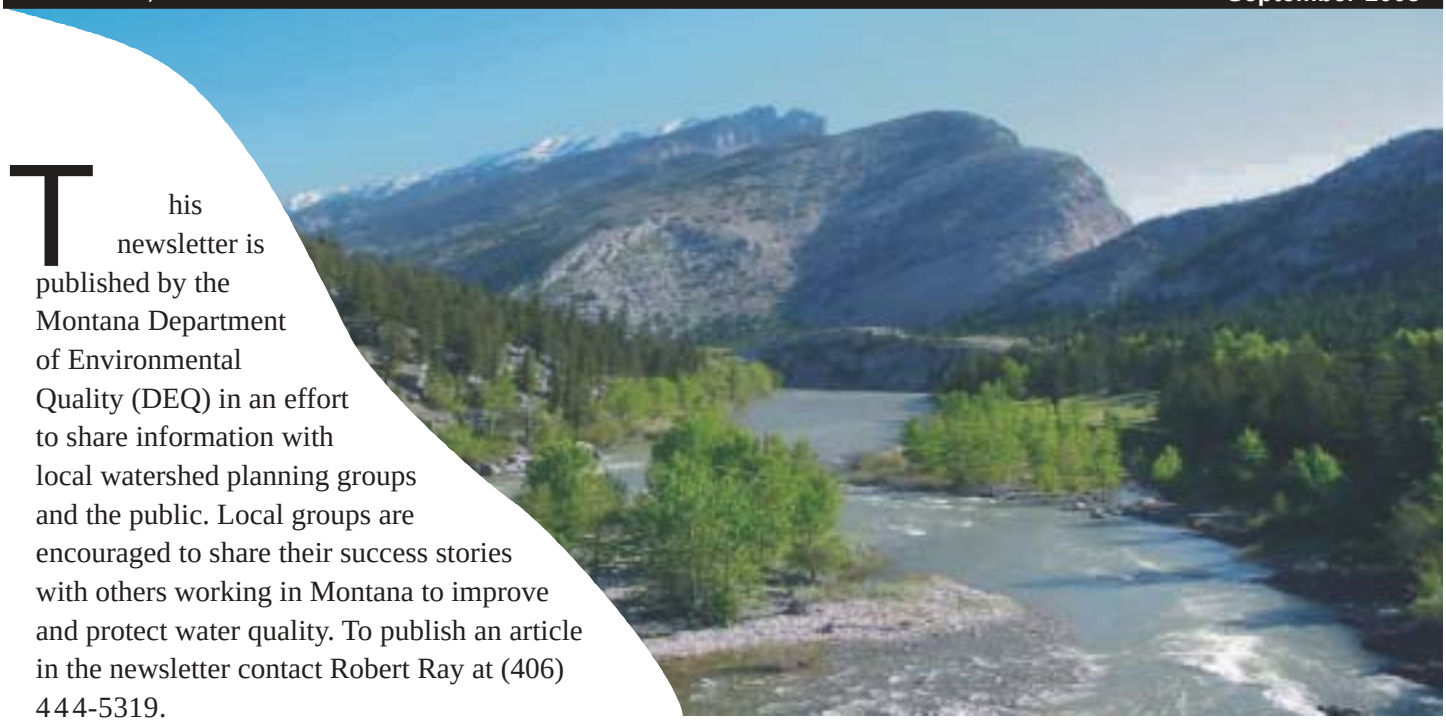

Sun River *(photo courtesy of BigSkyFishing.com)*

This newsletter is published by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in an effort to share information with local watershed planning groups and the public. Local groups are encouraged to share their success stories with others working in Montana to improve and protect water quality. To publish an article in the newsletter contact Robert Ray at (406) 444-5319.

Inside This Issue

Sun River Watershed Water Quality Restoration Plan

TEAMWORK accounts for the many successes in the Sun River Watershed. Teamwork started with Captain Meriwether Lewis and the Corps of Discovery who described the watershed in 1806 and continues with the planning and restoration work of DEQ and the Sun River Watershed Group almost 200 years later.

On June 14, 1805, Lewis wrote, "Along this wide level country the Missouri …was joined by a large river (Sun), flowing from the northwest through a valley three miles in width, and distinguished by the timber which adorned its shores." He described the mouth of the Sun as about 200 yards wide, and very deep.

In July 1806, Lewis returned to the Sun from the west and described the river as it ran eastward across the prairie. He noted more islands compared to other rivers he had seen. Ironically, Lewis' first day in the Sun watershed was spent

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Sun River Watershed Water Quality Restoration Plan - *continued from page 1*

cold and drenched. He wrote, "*…the ground is rendered so miry by the rain which fell yesterday that it is excessively fatiegueing to the horses to travel*."

Much later a Sun River Watershed resident, J. Ford, who ran cattle on the North Fork of the Sun River, described an 1884 fishing trip. He said fish were plentiful in the Sun River, and one catch included 163 fish weighing up to 3 pounds each.

Natural events like floods shaped the unique character of the Sun. Floods occurred in 1908, 1916, 1927, 1964, and 1975. The 1964 flood over-topped Gibson Dam.

The Homestead Act and the Reclamation Act spurred agricultural development in the watershed. Residents worked together to build reservoirs and create impressive irrigation projects to water fertile farmland.

When the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) began a planning effort to write the Sun River Water Quality Restoration Plan, they sought the help of the Sun River Watershed Group. This partnership produced a workable plan that the group is helping to implement.

The Sun River Watershed Group used federal 319 and local matching funds to provide environmental information and local input for the plan. The plan not only fulfills DEQ's responsibilities under the Clean Water Act and Montana Water Quality Act, it also provides a useful document to guide voluntary activities by local groups to improve water quality. To date, the Sun River Watershed Group and the Muddy Creek Task Force have coordinated many important restoration projects.

For 15 years, this partnership of committed groups and individuals has worked to restore Muddy Creek. Irrigation water management, riparian management, and stream channel work have improved water quality. Cost effective approaches are being evaluated to return Muddy Creek to water quality standards.

The Greenfields Irrigation District is working to reduce erosion-causing peak flows to Muddy Creek. A "re-regulation reservoir" is being considered. Nutrient management planning will reduce nutrient loading. And the Conservation Reserve Program may be effective in reducing salinity and selenium by converting dry land crop/fallow systems that contribute to saline seep with native rangelands.

In-stream flow in the upper Sun River is an important factor in achieving sediment and temperature targets. In-stream flow may increase with strategic application of irrigation management practices and on-farm efficiencies, if water savings are recognized as salvage water. Participation in these activities is voluntary and will not jeopardize established water rights.

The Forest Service is addressing the National Forest lands that drain water and sediment to Gibson Reservoir with a special designation, improvements to its trail system, and a series of controlled burns in the South Fork of the Sun River to reduce the chance for larger and more intense fires.

The Bureau of Reclamation and stockmen will address range health around Willow Creek Reservoir and Ford Creek. The Willow Creek Feeder Canal System contributes significant amount of sediment to the reservoir. A working partnership of the Lewis & Clark Conservation District; Bureau of Reclamation; Greenfields Irrigation District; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; local landowners; and many others have begun an erosion control program.

Recently, the Sun River Watershed Group received a $10,000 Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant from the National Association of Counties. These projects feature a cooperative effort between local government agencies, elected officials, community groups, businesses, schools, and environmental organizations. The goal is to improve local water quality and restore important fish and wildlife habitats.

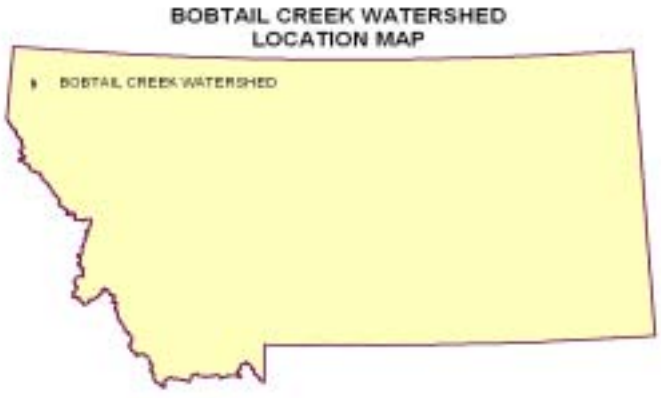
The Sun River Watershed Group will restore three miles of riparian area in the lower Sun. They will remove more than 100 car bodies, place erosion matting on the raw banks, and plant 2,000 willow and cottonwood trees. For more information on the Sun River Watershed Group, contact the watershed coordinator, Alan Rollo at (406) 727-4437. ■

Bobtail Creek Water Quality Restoration Plan

The Department of Environmental Quality recently received approval for the Bobtail Creek Water Quality Restoration Plan (WQRP) from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The forested Bobtail Creek Watershed covers 22 square miles in the Purcell Mountains near Libby, Montana. The Forest Service manages 73 percent of the watershed, Plum Creek Timber Company 16 percent, and small-tract landowners 11 percent. Small-tract landowners control a minor amount of the land in the watershed but it is generally adjacent to the creek.

The Bobtail Creek Water Quality Restoration Plan focuses on the water quality necessary to support the fishery. Targets relating to fish habitat focus on the structure and function of the creek: its pool frequencies and channel width-to-depth ratios.



Sediment targets include Wolman pebble counts and Mc Neil core samples. The total maximum daily load (TMDL) is expressed as a 95% reduction in total suspended sediment during high flows.

There are over 128 miles of road in the watershed, which is nearly six miles of road per square mile. Road crossings have contributed to channel instability and stream bank erosion.

Restoration objectives address the sources of sediment: timber harvest, roads and bank erosion. Implementation of the plan will continue the ongoing water quality protection work of the Kootenai National Forest, Plum Creek Timber Company, landowners, and other agencies. The Kootenai National Forest plans include decommissioning 18 miles of road, removing 30 stream crossings, and monitoring for water quality changes. Plum Creek plans include removing barriers to fish passage and upgrading roads and culverts.

Private landowners are encouraged to select and install best management practices (BMPs). These include road improvements, designing grazing management plans, channel and bank restoration projects, cooperative plantings of riparian vegetation, and building fences.

The WQRP plan includes a monitoring section that features an adaptive management strategy. This strategy determines if restoration objectives are producing the desired results. If the desired results aren't achieved, the objectives are modified. BMP implementation is monitored along with water quality and habitat conditions. ■

Middle Milk River Demonstration Project

The Middle Milk Demonstration Project uses a series of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to protect the water quality of the Milk River from nutrients and sediment produced by an animal feeding operation. This type of small-scale livestock operation is found throughout Montana. Individually, they are generally insignificant to the health of the river. But, cumulatively, they can represent a significant impact.

Milk River

Small-scale animal feeding operations usually fall under the category of nonpoint sources of pollution. As long as potential pollutants like nutrients and sediment stay on-site and do not flow to the river with storm runoff, the operations do not need to have a permit.

The Middle Milk Demonstration Project had the following goals:

- Demonstrate an effective and affordable way for livestock producers to reduce or eliminate stream bank erosion by using an on-site water source.
- Assure that livestock waste will not get into the river by placing corrals and winter-feeding areas away from riverbanks.
- Install drainage diversions upgradient of the corrals to assure that clean runoff water does not flow into the corrals and become contaminated.
- Provide riparian fencing and buffer strips to protect water quality in the Milk River.

The project included a tour and media interviews to raise awareness of water quality issues, involve the local community in implementing protection practices, and begin the development of a water quality restoration plan for the watershed.

To account for effective use of taxpayer dollars, the General Accounting Office has asked the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to evaluate all 319 funded demonstration projects* to predict the pollutant savings expected from the project. Using a simple computer model, DEQ made the following estimates. Each year, the Middle Milk River Demonstration Project will protect the Milk River from 540 lbs/year of nitrogen, 200 lbs/year of phosphorus, and 5.5 tons/year of sediment.

The 319 funds expended were $24,820 and matched by an additional $10,323. Also the Natural Resource Conservation Service made a significant contribution in staff expertise.

* *The Clean Water Act provides federal funding to the states for local water quality improvement projects through section 319 of the Act. The water quality improvement projects are funded through a grant managed by DEQ. The recipient matches at least forty percent of the total cost of the project.*

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Middle Milk River Demonstration Project - *continued on page 4*

THE FIRST best management practice (BMP) is a berm that protects the river from potential runoff after a 25-year flood event.

THE SECOND best management practice is a new fence of recycled highway guardrails that assures animals will not access the river.

NOTE: June 17, 2005 on the Milk River in Blaine County, east of Chinook

During the previous two weeks, this area received 4 inches of rain.

Photo taken in March 2003 prior to the start of the project.

The wooden shed is a reference point for both photos.

The corral fence is a few feet from the riverbank.

Kootenai River Network Honored With The 2005 Watershed Stewardship Award

Each year the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) honors an exceptional watershed group at a ceremony at the state capitol. On May 26, Governor Brian Schweitzer presented MWCC's 2005 Watershed Stewardship Award to the Kootenai River Network during a festive capitol rotunda ceremony.

(L-R) Carolyn Stamy, Nancy Zapotocki, Rox Rogers, Gov. Schweitzer, Wayne Maahs, Laura Duncan and Jim Duncan

The MWCC uses four criteria to evaluate groups for the Watershed Stewardship Award. An award-winning group demonstrates:

- diverse local involvement and effective collaboration;
- measurable results;
- community outreach and education; and
- a comprehensive approach to watershed health.

The Kootenai River Network (KRN) coordinates watershed activities in an international area covering 18,000 square miles in British Columbia, Northwest Montana and Northern Idaho. The Kootenai River flows out of Canada's Kootenay National Park into Montana and through Idaho, only to return to Kootenay Lake in Canada. The basin is mountainous country, 90% of which is forested or above tree-line. The altitude changes 10,000 vertical feet.

KRN's accomplishments include: inventories of water quality and habitat condition; stream restoration projects; a comprehensive water quality monitoring plan; facilitation and coordination services; participation in TMDL and subbasin resource management planning; and information and education activities.

State Employee Honored
Mike Mclane, Department of Natural Resources, was almost speechless and visibly moved when the MWCC recognized him for his exceptional work with the council and watershed groups across the state. Mike was instrumental in the creation and early success of the MWCC.

Words to Live By and Food to Fuel Friendships
Conservationist Jim Posewitz inspired the crowd at the award ceremonies with his keynote address. He stressed that local communities are strongest when they form partnerships. Good communication and a shared vision are key for tackling complex watershed problems.

Participants took his words to heart. They topped off the award ceremony with a delicious lunch buffet and good conversation. ■

Western Wetland Conference: Collaboration Across Boundaries

The Western Wetland Conference is for anyone interested in wetland functions, conservation, and protection from across a 17-state region (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, California). The conference will focus on successful approaches and strategies for overcoming wetland protection challenges, which are unique to the west. A few of these challenges are water shortages and variability, limited regulatory protection, and lack of information. Three tracks highlight priority topics across the region: Strategies for Wetland Protection; Gathering and Using Information; and Water Availability. This conference, the first of its kind from a west-wide perspective, will provide participants with:

- Models for successful projects and programs;
- Opportunities to network across sectors and regions;
- Chance to share both challenges and successes with a broad group of participants;
- Tools and ideas to take home and apply to local issues, projects, and strategies.

The conference will be held at the Denver Marriott West in Colorado from October 24 – 26, 2005. Registration is $155 (price available through 10/3/05) and includes:

- two breakfasts
- two lunches
- evening reception
- full access to conference

An additional afternoon field trip is available on the afternoon of October 26 for $25.

Limited scholarships are available.

The Montana Watercourse, US EPA, and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists are sponsoring the event.

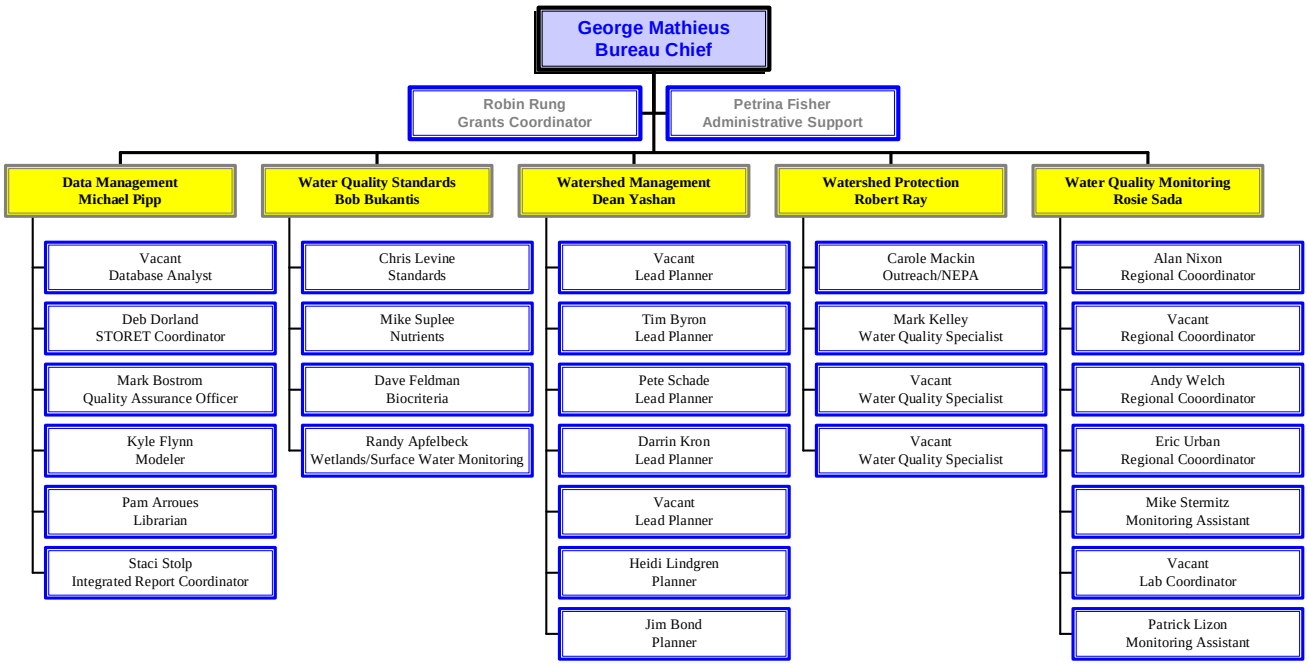
For more information, please visit:
www.mtwatercourse.org/wwc/index.htm ■

Western Wetland Conference
Denver Marriott West
Denver, Colorado
October 24 - 26, 2005

New Faces and Changes at DEQ

The Water Quality Planning Bureau has reorganized. A new section called **Watershed Protection** will tackle the following in FY 2006: (1) manage, update and revise Montana's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program; (2) coordinate implementation of approved TMDL plans; (3) coordinate with other agencies in protecting water quality; and (4) invite voluntary action to restore water quality by offering grants, training, and other incentives.

Water Quality Planning Bureau



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New Faces and Changes at DEQ - *continued from page 8*

Doing Fine — with More to Come?

DEQ's new director, Richard Opper, is off to a good start. In his first four months he guided DEQ successfully through the legislative session. Now he is turning his attention to internal matters. Look for DEQ to become more efficient and accessible under his leadership.

Richard gained his experience by serving 14 years as the Executive Director of the Missouri River Basin Association. The commission included representatives from the states and the Indian tribes in the Missouri River Basin. ■

Retiring to Missoula

Carole Mackin, the editor of the Watershed Management Newsletter for the past two years, is starting a new phase of life called "retired." Carole has worked for state government for 14 years in the Wellhead Protection Program, Water Quality District Program, and Nonpoint Source Program.

Carole is moving to Missoula to join her husband who is in law school. "Going back to a college town and all the campus activities makes me feel kind of young all over again." Carole reported. "I'll miss my close working relationship with so many wonderful people around the state. But, I'm sure our paths will cross often in the future." ■

Celebrating Watersheds

Provided by
Nancy Zapotocki of the Kootenai River Network
May 2005 Newsletter

Kootenai River Network and 15 other Montana Watershed Groups were represented at the Capitol Building Rotunda in Helena, Montana on April 8, 2005.

Nancy said, "It was a great opportunity to let Montana Legislators know about the work being done by local watershed groups during their Legislative session." ■

Training and Information Opportunities in Montana

EPA Watershed Protection Handbook — The EPA handbook on watershed protection addresses pollution runoff, wildlife habitat and invasive species in the nation's estuaries. Even though Community-Based Watershed Management: Lessons from the National Estuary Program focuses on estuaries, its principles and examples pertain to any organization involved in watershed management. Get the 98-page handbook at **http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/...**

September 23-24 – Yellowstone River Watch Meeting and Training, Glendive. This program sponsored by the EPA and DEQ will increase students' knowledge of Montana's river systems through field study, data collection and data analysis. For information, contact Frances Moore at 994-6425 fmoore@montana.edu.

September 28 – Montana Wetland Council meeting, Metcalf Room, DEQ building, Helena. Agenda pending. Contact Lynda Saul lsaul@mt.gov 444-6652 for information.

September 29 – MWCC Outreach & Education work group meeting, 10 a.m.-noon, Room 242, DEQ building, Helena. The group will discuss planning outreach and information efforts on land use, ground water, water quality, water quantity and aquatic resources. For information, contact Karen Filipovich at kfilipovich@montana.edu.

September 29 – Quarterly application deadline for Watershed Planning and Assistance grants. For information see DNRC-WPA Grants, or contact Dave Martin, DNRC-CARDD at 444-4253 damartin@mt.gov.

October 3-6 – 72nd Annual Water School, Bozeman. October 5-6 — MWCC quarterly meeting, Bozeman.

October 6 – MWCC fall meeting, FW&P building, Bozeman. Contact Karen Filipovich kfilipovich@montana.edu for additional information.

October 11-13 – "When You Get Back Home," Missoula. The National Association of Conservation Districts and the Bitterroot RC&D are co-sponsoring a conference on hazardous forest fuel reduction, woody biomass utilization and forest health issues. Registration fee is $125 in advance, or $150 on-site. For additional information or register by phone, contact Bitterroot RC&D at 363-1444. The Holiday Inn Parkside, 721-8550 for reduced rates (group rate code: WBC).

October 12-14 – Big Sky Public Purchasing Association Symposium, Butte. Covers contract management skills and techniques; Quickbooks/accounting training; procurement law, rules and processes; independent contractors; contracting/procurement ethics and collusion; etc. Registration fee is $80 for members, and $120 for non-members – includes all meals. For additional information or a registration form, contact Rob Rung, DEQ, at 444-6756, rrung@mt.gov or Dave Martin, DNRC, at 444-4253 damartin@mt.gov.

October 17-19 – Eighth Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park.

October 21 – Deadline for draft 319 program grant applications. Final applications are due December 16. Additional information can be found on the DEQ web site at 319 Program Information, or by calling Robin Rung 444-6756, rrung@mt.gov, or Robert Ray at 444-5319, rray@mt.gov.

October 27-28 – American Water Resources Association-Montana Section annual meeting, Bozeman. Contact Sue Higgins for more details shiggins@montana.edu.

November 7-9 – Montana Farm Bureau Convention, Colonial Red Lion Inn, Helena.

Did You Know?

Problem	Pollutants/ Sources	Example Solutions
SEDIMENT *Size of problem in Montana:* 218 waterbodies 3,669 stream miles 135,369 lake acres	**Pollutant:** Sediment in streams and lakes is natural, but excess sediment clouds the water and disrupts aquatic life cycles. It settles on aquatic plants, smothers fish spawning areas, covers food supplies and carries nutrients, pathogens, and heavy metals. **Sources:** Three sources of excess sediment are: (1) roads next to a water body; (2) bare or eroding streambanks; and (3) removal of riparian vegetation by logging, grazing or homeowners.	Reduce erosion and sediment by channeling storm runoff away from streets and parking lots to settling ponds. Use best management practices to install and maintain culverts and bridges. Protect streambanks with buffer strips between fields and streams or provide alternate sources of stockwater and shade. Channel water away from streams when building roads. Restrict use of dirt roads during wet weather.
METALS *Size of problem in Montana:* 198 waterbodies 3,415 stream miles 437,822 lake acres	**Pollutant:** Metals such as arsenic, selenium, mercury, chromium, zinc, lead, copper, and cadmium are toxic to most forms of life. **Sources:** Metals come primarily from past mining activities. However, airborne mercury can accumulate in waterbodies. Selenium, naturally in soil, can be mobilized by farming practices.	Move mine waste to hazardous waste repositories or cap tailings with vegetation to reduce erosion. Reduce air pollution levels. Continuous crop soils with high selenium levels.
NUTRIENTS *Size of problem in Montana:* 119 waterbodies 2,881 stream miles 178,049 lake acres	**Pollutant:** Excess nutrients can wash into streams and lakes causing unacceptable levels of algal growth. Nuisance algae affects swimming and boating, creates foul tastes or odors, and kills fish by reducing the oxygen in the water. **Sources:** Nutrients are applied to enhance crop production but excess amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium can leach into the water. Nutrients are also found in manure, sludge, irrigation return flows, and urban area stormwater.	Implement nutrient management plans to maintain high yields and save money by using only as much fertilizer as the crop needs. Capture the drainage from animal feeding operations and divert it away from waterbodies. Improve irrigation water management by conserving water and reducing return flows. Landscape urban areas with drought tolerant native plants.
TEMPERATURE *Size of problem in Montana:* 54 waterbodies 1,454 stream miles No lakes	**Pollutant:** An increase in water temperature promotes algal growth, decreases oxygen levels, and harms fish. **Sources:** Water temperatures increase when: (1) vegetation that shades a stream is lost; (2) the channel is widened or dammed and flow is slowed; or (3) water is diverted and instream flow is decreased.	Plant riparian vegetation to shade the stream. Use off-stream water or build water gaps for stockwater. Use water efficiently to reduce withdrawals during the summer months. Create wetlands, riparian buffers, parklands and storm water systems that allow the storage and slow release of water throughout the summer months.

MONTANA NATURAL RESOURCE GRANT PROGRAMS

Agency and Grant Program	Dollar Amount	Source	Cycle	Application Due Dates	Contract Duration	Extension Possible	Reports	Payments	Program Contact	Match	Administrative Fee	Dollar Limit Per Application	Who can Apply	Special Requirements
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 319 Program	$1.5 Million Annually	Federal	Annual	Draft 10/1 Final 12/1	2 years	Yes	Quarterly & Final	No more frequently than monthly, at least quarterly reimbursement	Rob Rung DEQ/WQPB 406-444-6756 rrung@mt.gov	Yes	10%	No	Governmental entities and Non Profit 501c(3) Organizations (NPO)	60/40 Cost Share. Must be for Water Quality Protection, Improvement or Planning. Four categories of applications: 1. Watershed TMDL Planning 2. Watershed Restoration 3. Groundwater 4. Information & Education
Local Empowerment Grants Program (LEP) MT Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)	$1.5 Million One-Time Allocation	Federal	Varies	Varies	Varies	Yes	Quarterly & Final	Monthly	Steve Merritt MACD 406-443-5711, smerritt@macdnet.org	No	No	Varies, $50,000 maximum	Conservation Districts, watershed groups	Must be sponsored by a CConservation District.
DEQ/EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Wetland Development Grant	Competitive within Region 8 (typically about $350,000)	Federal	Annual	Approx. Dates Draft 10/1 Final 12/1	2 years	Yes	Task Based	Upon completion of tasks	Lynda Saul, DEQ 406-444-6652, lsaul@mt.gov	25% of Total Project Cost	No	$100,000	State, local governments, universities, nonprofits	Grant purpose is to develop the capacity for State and Local governments to protect their wetland resources. Actual restoration does not qualify. Tribal governments apply directly to EPA.
Mt Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) Future Fisheries	Varies, but about 1.5 Million Annually	State	6 months	Jan 1 and July 1	Varies	Yes	Final	As bills are submitted	Mark Lere MFWP 406-444-2432, mlere@mt.gov	Yes	No	No	Anyone, but coordination with local fishery biologist recommended	Projects that restore or enhance habitat for naturally reproducing populations of wild fish.
MFWP Living with Wildlife	$65,000 Biennial	State	Varies-Usually every other year	Varies – this year is 6/15/2005	2 years	Yes, but rarely requested	Interim and Final	Half at contract signing. Remainder after receipt and approval of Final Report	Joe Weigand MFWP Field Services 406-444-3065 joweigand@mt.gov	Yes	Allowed-usually incorporated into in-kind match	$5,000 – more if justified and funding is available	Private, NPO's, Local, State, Federal Gov.	Living with Wildlife is a grant program developed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and funded by the Montana Legislature to promote the successful coexistence of people and wildlife in urban and suburban settings. Living with Wildlife will fund projects that emphasize local involvement, partnership approaches, cost sharing, innovation, prevention and proactive solutions to human/wildlife conflicts.
Conservation Districts Grant Program (223 Grants)	$300,000 annually	State	Four times a year	January/ May/ August/ October (varies)	Mostly 1 year, depends on project	Yes	With payment request & Final	Reimbursement basis — as often as necessary	Laurie Zeller, DNRC 406-444-6667, lzeller@mt.gov	yes/no	Yes	$15,000, but may exceed if justified	Conservation Districts	50:50 cash match required for irrigation projects and projects over $15,000. Grants may be used for any conservation related activity and must be sponsored by a conservation district.
Conservation District Technical Assistance	$50,000 to $100,000 annually	State	Anytime	Anytime	Mostly 1 year, depends on project	Yes	With payment request & Final	Reimbursement basis — as often as necessary	Laurie Zeller, DNRC 406-444-6667, lzeller@mt.gov	No	Yes	No Limit	Conservation Districts	Grants may be used for technical assistance necessary to get projects on the ground.
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)/Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) Planning Grant	$300,000 this biennium	State	Biannual	Open Cycle	Varies	Yes	Quarterly & Final	Half upon receipt of draft report, half on receipt of final report	Pam Smith DNRC/RRGL 406-444-6668, pamsmith@mt.gov	Yes	No	$10,000	Governmental Entities	50% cash match required, unless the applicant is a NPO, such as a CD. Must be for the conservation, management, development or protection of a renewable resource in Montana.
DNRC/RRGL Grant	$4 Million Biennial	State	Biennial	May 15th even numbered years	Varies	Yes	Quarterly & Final	Varies	Varies	No	No	$100,000	Governmental Entities	Must be for the conservation, management, development or protection of a renewable resource in Montana.

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Montana Natural Resource Grant Programs

Agency and Grant Program	Dollar Amount	Source	Cycle	Application Due Dates	Contract Duration	Extension Possible	Reports	Payments	Program Contact	Match	Administrative Fee	Dollar Limit Per Application	Who can Apply	Special Requirements
DNRC/RRGL Emergency Grants	$100,000 Biennial	State	Biannual	Open Cycle	Varies	Yes	Quarterly & Final	Varies	Bob Fischer DNRC/RRGL, 406-444-6668, bfischer@mt.gov	No	No	$30,000	Governmental Entities	Projects that require immediate attention to prevent substantial damage or legal liability. The project cannot be the result of inadequate operation and maintenance.
DNRC/ Reclamation and Development Grants (RDGP) Grant	$4 Million Biennial	State	Biennial	May 15th even numbered years	Varies	Yes	Quarterly & Final	Varies	Greg Mills DNRC/RDGP 406-444-6668, gmills@mt.gov	No	No	$300,000	Governmental Entities	Projects that reclaim lands damaged by mining; activities that address crucial state needs. Projects must provide benefits in one or more of the following: reclamation, mitigation, and research related to mining and exploration; identification and repair of hazardous waste sites; research to assess existing or potential environmental damage.
DNRC/ Private Grants	$100,000 Biennial	State	Biennial	Open Cycle	Varies	Yes	Quarterly & Final	Varies	Larry Bloxom, DNRC/Private Grants 406-444-6668 lbloxom@mt.gov	No	No	$5,000 or 25% of the total estimated cost of the project	An individual, association, for profit corporation or NPO	Projects relating to water where the quantifiable benefits will exceed the costs.
Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) - Large Grants	$6.5 - $8.5 million annually	State	Annual	March	Varies	Yes	Quarterly & Final	Varies	Kathy Coleman, 406-444-0229, kcoleman@mt.gov	No	Yes - costs must be directly related to implementation of project	No	Governmental Entities, Private, NPO	Projects must restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of injury to natural resources and / or lost services covered in Montana v. ARCO lawsuit.
NRDP - Project Development Grants or Small projects	$200,000 annually	State	State	Open Cycle	Varies	Yes	Quarterly & Final	Varies	Kathy Coleman, 406-444-0229, kcoleman@mt.gov	No	Yes - costs must be directly related to implementation of project	$25,000	Governmental Entities, Private, NPO	Projects must restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of injury of natural resources and / or lost services covered in Montana v. ARCO lawsuit.
DNRC Watershed Planning and Assistance Grant	$144,750 Annually	State	Ongoing	Ongoing	12-16 months	Yes	Monthly or Quarterly/ Final	Varies - based on reimbursable	DNRC/ WPAG 406-444-5234 David Martin , damartin@mt.gov	No	10%	$10,000 per Watershed Project	Conservation Districts must be applicants	Planning dollars for broad-based watershed efforts including coordination, assessment and education.
Mt Department of Agriculture (MDA) - Noxious Weed Trust Fund	$1.8 - $2 million annually	State & Federal	Annual	December	Varies	Yes	April 15; October 15	Any time	Kim Johnson MDA 406-444-1517 kijohnson@mt.gov	Yes	3%	No	Anyone, but with a sponsor of a County Weed District, Conservation District, University, or Reservation	50:50 cost share on herbicide and commercial application for noxious weed control; must have at least 3 cooperating adjacent landowners for local cooperative projects; also provides funding for weed education and research projects. Send 1 original grant proposal and 28 copies.
DNRC/ Irrigation Development Grant	$150,000 One-time allocation	State	Biannual	Open Cycle	Varies	Yes	Quarterly	Varies	Pat Riley, DNRC/Irrigation Development 406-247-4413, priley@mt.gov	No		$15,000	Governmental Entities	Grants must be used for the development of new irrigation projects, and activities that increase the value of agriculture for existing irrigated lands.